The AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®

SPIRAL

CONWAY BARBERI

MARVEL NOW!

ARTHUR ADAMS © 11-8-2014

The AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

SPIRAL

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PREVIOUSLY:

WHEN A MURDEROUS FAMILY OF INTERDIMENSIONAL CREATURES CALLED ***THE INHERITORS*** *BEGAN HUNTING AND FEASTING ON THE LIFEFORCES OF SPIDER-PEOPLE FROM ACROSS THE MULTIVERSE, IT FELL TO PETER PARTKER,* ***THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN,*** *TO LEAD HIS FELLOW SPIDER-MEN AND WOMEN TO VICTORY. NOW HE'S BACK IN NEW YORK CITY AND GETTING BACK TO SPIDEY BASICS!*

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AMAZING SPIDER-MAN 16.1

SPIRAL, PART ONE

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN 16.1 VARIANT

BY SIMONE BIANCHI

I LOVE THIS CITY.

BUT AFTER WHAT'S HAPPENED LATELY--

--THE THINGS I DID, THE OTHER "MANHATTANS" I'VE SEEN--

--IT FEELS... DIFFERENT.

SEE THE EVENTS OF SPIDER-VERSE. --NICK

NO, THAT'S NOT RIGHT.

I FEEL DIFFERENT.

EVERYBODY, TAKE IT DOWN A NOTCH.

OH, GOOD.

JUST WHEN THINGS WERE GETTING DULL AND MOODY.

YOU'RE SERVING A WARRANT, TEDDY. DOESN'T HAVE TO GET UGLY.

TELL IT TO *TOMBSTONE*, YURI.

S.W.A.T

POLICE

NYPD

SWAT

263

CALL 911

HE'S THE ONE RAISING AN *ARMY*. BUILDING AN *ARSENAL*. GEARING UP FOR A FULL-BLOWN *GANG WAR*.

SAYS YOUR SOURCE.

THIS ISN'T ONE OF TOMBSTONE'S CONSTRUCTION SITE FRONTS. WE'RE NOT EVEN SURE HE OWNS THIS PLACE.

ARMY? ARSENAL? GANG WAR? MORE, PLEASE!

DON'T DO THAT!

MY PEOPLE ARE ON A HAIR TRIGGER. SOMEBODY MIGHT SHOOT YOU.

POLICE

THEY'D MISS.

LOOK, IF THINGS'RE GETTING TENSE, I'D BE HAPPY TO LEND A HAN--

NO!

NO HAND.

POLICE

BUT, YOU AND ME, ME AND THE *WRAITH*, WE COULD--

FORGET IT.

WE PLAY THIS BY THE BOOK.

"BY THE BOOK?"

THAT WHAT I TAUGHT YOU?

NEW DAYS, DETECTIVE.

NEW *BUREAU CHIEF*.

SHE WANTS THE BOOK. WE USE THE BOOK.

POLICE

MY SOURCE, YURI. MY CALL.

MIGHT BE YOUR SOURCE, TEDDY, BUT IT'S MY PRECINCT. I'M RESPONSIBLE FOR--

CAPTAIN--

TTKKK TTKKK

TTKKKK

NNGH

TEDDY!

CHNK CHNK

CHNK CHNK

WHO STARTED THIS?
WHO STARTED SHOOTING?
ONE OF THE SWATS--
HE RAISED HIS GUN.
I THOUGHT--
YOU "THOUGHT"?
CRUNCH
TATS!
WHATCHA NEED, BOSS?
NEED YOU TO KILL 'EM!
KILL EVERYBODY!

EVEN BEFORE I TOOK A ROUND TRIP THROUGH THE MULTIVERSE, I ALREADY KNEW FATE WAS A FRAGILE THING.

DOWN! DOWN!

RETURN FIRE!

AFTER ALL, I'M NOT JUST YOUR TYPICAL FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD WEB-SPINNER.

I'M A *PHYSICIST.*

ALTERNATE REALITIES, QUANTUM MECHANICS.

OLD NEWS, RIGHT?

WASN'T SUPPOSED TO BE LIKE THIS.

TAKA KAKAA

I HAD A *PLAN!*

GOOD FOR YOU, CREW-TOP. PLANS ARE TERRIFIC.

TAKAKA-

CLICK

BUT THEY'RE KINDA LIKE *OPINIONS* AND CERTAIN *ALIMENTARY ORIFICES.*

EVERYBODY'S GOT ONE.

NOBODY'S IMPRESSED.

STILL, IT'S *ONE* THING TO ACCEPT THE FRAGILITY OF FATE AND THE POWER OF CHOICE IN THEORY.

COMING MASK TO MASK WITH A DIFFERENT YOU?

THAT IS A HIT TO THE GUT.

YOU'RE A TOUGH MAN, TEDDY. DON'T GIVE UP ON ME. KEEP FIGHTING.

FRIEND OF YOURS?

MORE THAN A FRIEND. TEDDY RANGEL MENTORED ME MY FIRST YEAR ON THE FORCE. HE HAD MY BACK. HE WAS MY "RABBI."

EVERYTHING I AM TODAY, I OWE TO THAT MAN.

BETTER HOPE YOUR BUDDY CHOKES ON A RESPIRATOR, WATANABE.

HE MIXED IN MY BUSINESS, THAT MAKES HIM A DEA--

THWAP

KNGMPH

SORRY ABOUT YOUR FRIEND, CAPTAIN.

WHATEVER HAPPENS TO HIM, IF HE'S ANYTHING LIKE YOU, I BET HE'D SAY IT WAS *WORTH* IT.

SCORE THIS AS A *WIN* FOR THE GOOD GUYS.

100 CENTRE STREET, EIGHT DAYS LATER.

...PURSUANT TO THE COURT'S DETERMINATION THAT THE ORIGINAL SEARCH WARRANT WAS DEFECTIVE, ALL CHARGES DERIVED FROM EVIDENCE PRODUCED UNDER AUTHORITY OF SAID WARRANT ARE DISMISSED.

THE COURT ORDERS THE DEFENDANT, LONNIE THOMPSON LINCOLN, TO BE ***RELEASED*** FROM CUSTODY.

WHAT?!

PROBLEM, OFFICER?

AH, THE CAPTAIN WAS ADDRESSING ME, JUDGE.

IT'S TRUE WE CAN'T IDENTIFY THE *SOURCE* DETECTIVE RANGEL REFERENCED IN HIS ORIGINAL WARRANT APPLICATION--

--BUT ONLY BECAUSE OF THE OFFICER'S CURRENT MEDICAL STATUS--

HE'S IN A *COMA*, JUDGE.

SADLY, POLICE WORK HAS ITS *RISKS*.

ALL THE MORE REASON TO MAINTAIN LEGALLY SUFFICIENT SUPPORT DOCUMENTATION.

RULING STANDS. CASE *DISMISSED*.

THIS IS ON YOU, WATANABE.

CHIEF--

FULL AUDIT. DOCUMENT PROTOCOLS. YOUR PRECINCT.

BUT--

MY DESK. TOMORROW. EIGHT A.M.

I WANTED TO *PUNCH* HER.

HERE YOU ARE FIGHTING FOR YOUR LIFE, BUT ALL CHIEF YARBOROUGH WANTS IS TO *AUDIT* MY *PAPERWORK*.

BACK IN THE DAY YOU MADE IT SOUND SO *SIMPLE*.

"A COP HAS TWO JOBS, YURI.

"PROTECT HIS PARTNER. CATCH THE BAD GUYS."

I BLEW BOTH.

UH, CAPTAIN?

MY TEAM'S HERE TO INSTALL A NEW ELECTRICAL SYSTEM--

--SOMETHING PARKER INDUSTRIES WORKED UP DURING THE *ELECTRO* MESS--

--AND I, *UH*, HEARD ABOUT YOUR FRIEND--

--UMM.

HE OKAY? YOU OKAY?

ASM #1-6 --NICK

HE'S IN A COMA AND I'M *TIRED*, PARKER.

TIRED OF PUSHING THE SAME ROCK UP A HILL OVER AND OVER.

WITH THE *KINGPIN GONE* IN EUROPE, LOCAL GANGS ARE HUNGRY FOR POWER AND TURF.

THE CITY'S A TURKEY DINNER.

MY PRECINCT IS THE CARVING BOARD.

YOU DATED CARLIE COOPER. YOU UNDERSTAND THE LIFE COPS LEAD.

A GOOD MAN LIKE TEDDY RANGEL RISKS EVERYTHING TO PROTECT THIS CITY, AND FOR WHAT?

SO SOME THICK-HEADED JUDICIAL *PARASITE* CAN THROW IT ALL AWAY?

BUT THAT'S THE DEAL, RIGHT?

YOU DO WHAT YOU DO, BUT YOU PLAY BY THE RULES.

OTHERWISE YOU END UP CROSSING LINES YOU SHOULD *NEVER* CROSS.

GOING PLACES YOU SHOULDN'T GO.

THAT'S WHAT WE TELL OURSELVES.

BUT SOMETIMES I WONDER--

BREEE BREEE BREEE

CODE BLUE!

WE NEED A CRASH CART!

IT WAS ME, YOU KNOW.
I WAS TEDDY'S SOURCE.
MARTIN LI...
CAPTAIN WATANABE, WE BOTH KNOW MARTIN LI BARELY EXISTS. MY FRIENDS CALL ME *MISTER NEGATIVE*.
SO DO MY ENEMIES.
ON THE WHOLE, I'D PREFER WE WERE FRIENDS.
DON'T *TOUCH* ME.
AFRAID I'LL CORRUPT YOU?
NOT MY INTENTION, CAPTAIN.
WE SHARE CERTAIN... INTERESTS. YOU MIGHT FIND THIS USEFUL.

WHERE'D YOU GET THESE?

MY *INNER DEMONS* HAVE REMARKABLE ACCESS.

YOU *DO* REALIZE WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING AT?

JUDGE HOWELL...RECEIVING ILLEGAL DRUGS FROM...THAT'S ONE OF TOMBSTONE'S GUYS...

HYDROCODONE!

I KNOW WHY YOU'RE DOING THIS.

TIPPING OFF DETECTIVE RANGEL--NOW, THESE PHOTOS--

IT'S A *TAKEOVER* PLAY.

OBVIOUSLY.

THE QUESTION YOU NEED TO ASK YOURSELF, CAPTAIN, IS--

DO YOU *CARE?*

CHIEF!

COULD BE FAKE. HAVE THE LAB LOOK AT THEM.
RIGHT. SURE.
MEANTIME, ABOUT THE WARRANT. WE CAN'T ALERT--
WHAT WARRANT?
TO ARREST JUDGE HOWELL. WE HAVE TO--
ARREST HOWELL? ON WHAT CHARGE?
COLLUSION-- CONSPIRACY--
TOMBSTONE IS HIS *DRUG DEALER.*
NONSENSE. YOU CAN'T PROVE THAT.
BUT THESE PHOTOS--
--SHOW TOMBSTONE'S MAN GIVING HOWELL A BOTTLE.
DOES IT CONTAIN DRUGS? HOW DO WE KNOW?
HOW DO WE KNOW *TOMBSTONE* IS PART OF IT?
FOLLOW PROCEDURE. DO YOUR PAPERWORK. WE HAVE RULES, CAPTAIN.
WE'RE COPS. NOT *VIGILANTES.*
MAYBE THAT'S THE PROBLEM.
CALL 911
I'VE BEEN TRYING TOO HARD TO FOLLOW THE RULES.

I BECAME *THE WRAITH* BECAUSE FOLLOWING THE RULES WASN'T GOOD ENOUGH.

I QUIT AFTER CARLIE DISCOVERED MY SECRET BUT PROMISED NOT TO TURN ME IN.

San

ASM VOL 1, #664 NICK

I ONLY TOOK THE MASK AGAIN TO HELP HER EXPOSE DOC OCK'S CONNECTION TO SPIDER-MAN'S STRANGE BEHAVIOR A FEW MONTHS AGO.

TOLD IN THE EPIC SUPERIOR SPIDER-MAN -NICK

SINCE THEN I'VE STRUGGLED TO FIND MY WAY BACK TO BEING A "GOOD COP."

BUT BEING A "GOOD COP" GOT MY FRIEND KILLED AND SET TOMBSTONE FREE.

TIME FOR PLAN B.

THIS IS WHERE I'M SUPPOSED TO MAKE A SPEECH ABOUT NOT LETTING YOUR ANGER OVER DETECTIVE RANGEL'S DEATH TRICK YOU INTO DOING SOMETHING STUPID.

BECAUSE WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT IT--

--DOING SOMETHING STUPID IS KINDA MY GIG.

TOMBSTONE IS DEALING DRUGS FROM THIS CONSTRUCTION SITE.

ONE OF HIS CUSTOMERS IS JUDGE HOWELL.

SERIOUSLY? YOU CAN PROVE THAT?

IF I COULD, I'D BE HERE WITH A SWAT TEAM.

SO WE'RE LOOKING FOR--?

EVIDENCE.

DRUGS. RECORDS.

ANYTHING THAT TIES TOMBSTONE TO HOWELL.

MAYBE THAT *VAULT* OVER THERE?

IS THIS A PERSONAL THING FOR YOU?

OH, IT'S *PERSONAL.*

JUST ASKING.

YOUGOTTABEKIDDINGME.

WHO KEEPS AN ANTI-TANK LAUNCHER ON A CONSTRUCTION SITE?

SWOOSH

NOT GOOD, NOT GOOD, NOT GOOD--

GO!

REALLY NOT GOOD.

KWUD!

THIS IS ABSOLUTELY GONNA HURT.

AAARRHHHH!

WELL, THAT WORKED OUT.

ALWAYS BETTER WHEN MISSILES DON'T GO BOOM IN MIDTOWN.

BOOM

WHAT DID YOU DO?

WHAT NEEDED TO BE DONE.

YOU BLEW OPEN A VAULT WITH AN ANTI-TANK MISSILE!

YOU COULD'VE *KILLED* SOMEBODY!

TOMBSTONE.

HE WAS HIDING IN THE VAULT. I COULD'VE KILLED *TOMBSTONE*.

BUT I DIDN'T.

(THOUGH HE MAY NEED A HEARING AID WHILE HE BEGS HIS LAWYER TO GET HIM A PLEA BARGAIN.)

THAT'S NOT THE *POINT*!

YOU'RE A COP!

GOT IT.

TOMBSTONE KEPT A *LEDGER* OF ALL HIS DRUG DEALS.

IF HOWELL'S NAME IS IN HERE--

YES.

WE'RE DONE. HOWELL'S DONE. NOT EVEN YARBOROUGH CAN IGNORE THIS.

KILL YOU-- NKG!

SMAK!

I DON'T THINK YOU SEE THE PROBLEM HERE.

COPS AREN'T *SUPPOSED* TO BLOW THINGS UP!

YOU *DON'T SEE.*

WATANABE IS THE COP.

I'M THE WRAITH.

CHOICES MATTER. FATE IS FRAGILE.

I KNOW BECAUSE I'M NOT JUST A PHYSICIST.

I'M YOUR TYPICAL FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD WEB-SPINNER.

AND I HAVE A VERY BAD FEELING YURI WATANABE JUST MADE A *VERY* BAD CHOICE.

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN 17.1 VARAINT

BY GABRIELE DELL'OTTO

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN 17.1

SPIRAL, PART TWO

Uptown Manhattan.
THE "STARLIGHT BALLROOM" AT THE HOTEL KNICKERBOCKER.
THE SIMPLICITY OF THE THING IS WHAT I FIND APPEALING.
NO DRAWN-OUT NEGOTIATIONS, NO WASTED MANPOWER. NO FUSS, NO DRAMA.
WE SETTLE OUR DIFFERENCES LIKE ADULTS.
WE PUT YOUR CHALLENGER IN THE CAGE WITH MY GUY, SCRATCH.
"TWO GO IN..."

KRAK

...ONE COMES OUT.

AND WINNER TAKES ALL?

LIKE I SAY, IT'S THE *SIMPLICITY* OF THE THING THAT APPEALS TO ME.

ME, TOO.

DEAL.

HNNH?

YOU'RE OKAY WITH THIS?

WE FIGHT ON *NEUTRAL* GROUND. NOT HERE.

I'M NOT CRAZY LIKE MY PREDECESSOR, HAMMERHEAD.

THIS GOBLIN KING KNOWS A GOOD BUSINESS PROPOSITION WHEN HE HEARS ONE.

JUST ONE THING--

AGREED. WE'RE COMPETING FOR TOMBSTONE'S TERRITORY--

I'LL FIND US A VENUE IN THE *THIRD PRECINCT.*

GOOD ENOUGH. NOW ALL WE NEED--

WHAT?

WHAT ARE YOU--?

SKRASH

THE PROBLEM WITH SECRET GANGLAND MEETINGS HELD IN *ROOFTOP* BALLROOMS?

ANYBODY SWINGING BY ON A WEB LINE CAN SEE YOU DOING BUSINESS.

SLOPPY SECURITY, GUYS.

IF THE *KINGPIN* WERE STILL AROUND HE'D SLAP YOU SILLY.

YOU KNOW HOW TO REACH ME, HAMMERHEAD.

I'LL BE IN TOUCH.

NNNGHRGGAH

RATTA TATATA TAT

TOMMY GUNS IN THE 21ST CENTURY? RETRO IS SO RETRO.

YOU WANT TO SHOOT THINGS, HAMMY.

--TAKE A TIP FROM THE FRANK CASTLE MANIAC PLAYBOOK AND GET YOURSELF A *REAL* WEAPON.

GRRNNGH

OR, HEY, JUST A THOUGHT--

GO THE MENTAL HEALTH ROUTE AND TRY SOME *ANGER MANAGEMENT*.

SIGH. SERIOUSLY?

KONK

SOMETIMES IT FEELS LIKE I'M TALKING TO MYSELF.

BEFORE I DROPPED IN I HEARD HAMMERHEAD TALK ABOUT FINDING A "*VENUE*" SOMEWHERE IN TOMBSTONE'S OLD TURF.

YOU KNOW WHAT'S UP WITH THAT?

NNGH

I'M GUESSING PROBABLY NOT.

TOMBSTONE'S TURF WAS IN THE THIRD PRECINCT.

THE THIRD IS *YURI WATANABE'S* PRECINCT.

THAT MEANS HER PRECINCT IS STILL CENTER STAGE IN NEW YORK'S ONGOING GANG WAR.

GOOD.

THE WAY SHE WENT OFF THE RAILS AS *THE WRAITH* A FEW NIGHTS AGO...

ASM 16.1 -NICK

...SHE AND I ARE DUE FOR A *HEART-TO-HEART* ANYWAY.

I COULD HAVE YOU SUSPENDED, WATANABE.

YOU DISOBEYED A *DIRECT ORDER*.

ALL DUE RESPECT, CHIEF--

--YOU ASKED ME TO HAVE THE LAB AUTHENTICATE THESE PHOTOS OF JUDGE HOWELL BUYING DRUGS FROM TOMBSTONE'S RIGHTHAND MAN.

THAT'S WHAT I DID.

YOU ALSO *ARRESTED* HOWELL.

WITHOUT WAITING FOR CSI'S REPORT.

THAT WAS THE D.A.'S CALL.

BASED ON EVIDENCE *YOU* PROVIDED.

WE RECEIVED A LEDGER IN TOMBSTONE'S HANDWRITING.

IT CONFIRMED HOWELL WAS A CUSTOMER FOR ILLICIT PHARMACEUTICALS.

THIS *LEDGER*...

IT CAME FROM THE SAME *ANONYMOUS* SOURCE WHO PROVIDED THOSE PHOTOS?

NO.

WE HAVE *PROCEDURES* TO DEAL WITH UNSOURCED EVIDENCE AND ANONYMOUS TIPS, CAPTAIN.

YOU IGNORED THEM.

I GOT RESULTS.

YOU GOT *REVENGE*.

BY THE WAY...

...JUDGE HOWELL ASKED TO SEE YOU.

ME?

WHY?

ASK HIM YOURSELF.

HE'S ON *RYKER'S*.

"BUT YOU KNOW THAT...

CITY OF NEW YORK CORRECTION DEPARTMENT
RIKERS ISLAND
HOME OF NEW YORKS BOLDEST

"YOU PUT HIM THERE."

THUMP

SHI--

WHOA.

SOMEBODY'S A BIT TETCHY.

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?

WARNING A FRIEND.

HAMMERHEAD AND THE GOBLIN KING HAD A *MEET* LAST NIGHT.

ABOUT WHAT?

DON'T KNOW, BUT YOUR PRECINCT WAS A HOT TOPIC.

FIGURES.

JAILING TOMBSTONE CREATED A LOCAL *POWER* VACUUM.

WITH KINGPIN GONE, THUGS LIKE THOSE TWO WILL TRY TO FILL IT.

RIGHT. ABOUT TOMBSTONE. HOW YOU *HANDLED* HIM THE OTHER NIGHT--

THINK MAYBE YOU WERE A LITTLE, AH, *OVER-ENTHUSIASTIC?*

HE KILLED MY FRIEND.

HEY, I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL, BELIEVE ME, BETTER THAN YOU CAN IMAGINE.

BUT WE *CAN'T* MAKE THIS PERSONAL.

I LEARNED THAT A LONG TIME AGO.

WE CATCH THE BAD GUYS AND LET THE SYSTEM DO THE REST.

"THE *SYSTEM*"?

"THE SYSTEM" RUN BY IDIOT PAPER PUSHERS LIKE MY *CHIEF* AND CORRUPT JUDGES LIKE *ANSON HOWELL?*

SEE FOR YOURSELF. "THE SYSTEM" IS A *JOKE.*

IT ALWAYS WAS.

"I'M JUST NOT LAUGHING ANYMORE."

Downtown Manhattan.

FUTURE SITE OF YET ANOTHER FIFTY-STORY CONDOMINIUM DEDICATED TO THE HOUSING NEEDS OF THE ONE PERCENT...

PERFECT.

NYC TAXI

GET WORD TO GOBLIN KING WE'LL BE READY BY MIDNIGHT.

SURE ABOUT THIS, BOSS?

WHY WOULDN'T I BE SURE?

WELL, UH, WITH SCRATCH IN JAIL--WHO'S GONNA FIGHT FOR *OUR* SIDE?

HEH.

TONIGHT. MIDNIGHT.

YES. AS YOU *EXPECTED.*

Ryker's Island State Penitentiary.

CAPTAIN WATANABE, I HAVE A CONFESSION TO MAKE.

REALLY?

SHOULD I CALL THE D.A.?

SHE'LL BE HAPPY TO TAKE A *PLEA*.

YES, I BOUGHT DRUGS FROM TOMBSTONE--PAINKILLERS--FOR MY *WIFE*.

THREE YEARS AGO SURGEONS REMOVED A TUMOR FROM HER SPINE.

EVER SINCE SHE'S BEEN IN CONSTANT, UNREMITTING *AGONY*.

CAN YOU IMAGINE WHAT THAT'S LIKE, CAPTAIN?

WATCHING SOMEONE YOU LOVE *DIE* A LITTLE EVERY DAY?

IT'S A HORROR.

THE MEDICATIONS PRESCRIBED FOR LINDSEY WERE NEVER ENOUGH.

SHE *NEEDED* MORE.

SO YOU MADE A DEAL.

TOMBSTONE GAVE YOU WHAT YOU WANTED FOR YOUR WIFE.

AND *YOU* LET HIM WALK.

NO!
YES, I BOUGHT DRUGS--
--I ADMIT THAT CRIME--
BUT THAT'S ALL I DID. I SWEAR!
I HAD NO IDEA TOMBSTONE WAS INVOLVED!
YOU *VACATED* DETECTIVE RANGEL'S SEARCH WARRANT.
BECAUSE IT WAS *DEFECTIVE!*
DETECTIVE RANGEL MADE A MISTAKE.
THE LAW IS CLEAR, THERE ARE PRECEDENTS, WE HAVE A *SYSTEM*--
DON'T TALK TO ME ABOUT YOUR SYSTEM!
CAPTAIN.
PLEASE.
I'VE HEARD...FROM OTHER INMATES... TOMBSTONE THINKS I'M A *DANGER* TO HIM.
IF YOU DON'T DROP THE *COLLUSION* CHARGE, HE MIGHT KILL ME.
HONESTLY, YOUR HONOR?
I DON'T SEE A PROBLEM.

I HAVE ANOTHER TIP FOR YOU, CAPTAIN.

BETTER THAN THE PHOTOS OF HOWELL BUYING DRUGS FROM TOMBSTONE'S SECOND-IN-COMMAND?

BECAUSE IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR *THE WRAITH* AND *SPIDER-MAN*, THAT TIP WOULD'VE LED NOWHERE.

HAMMERHEAD AND THE GOBLIN KING ARE PLANNING A MATCH FIGHT TO SETTLE WHO'LL TAKE OVER TOMBSTONE'S TURF.

MIDNIGHT TONIGHT AT THE OLD *EMPIRE ROYALE* IN THE DOWNTOWN THEATER DISTRICT.

THANKS.

"THANKS"?

AREN'T YOU THE LEAST BIT CONCERNED I MIGHT BE *PLAYING* YOU, CAPTAIN?

EVERYBODY PLAYS EVERYBODY, "MR. NEGATIVE."

WHY SHOULD YOU AND I BE ANY DIFFERENT?

I KNOW WHAT YURI WATANABE IS GOING THROUGH.

I FELT THE SAME WAY AFTER *UNCLE BEN* DIED.

THEN, AFTER WHAT HAPPENED TO *GWEN*--

WELL, IT TOOK ME A LONG TIME TO THINK STRAIGHT.

I BLAMED MYSELF FOR UNCLE BEN'S DEATH.

I BLAMED MYSELF FOR GWEN'S.

BUT NOBODY CAN *LIVE* WITH THAT KIND OF GUILT.

SO YOU TURN IT *OUTWARD*.

YOU FIND OTHERS TO SHARE THE BLAME.

THAT'S WHEN YOUR LIFE GETS DARK.

BECAUSE THE GUILT NEVER REALLY GOES AWAY...

...AND THERE'S ALWAYS SOMEBODY *NEW* TO BLAME.

The Empire Royale Theater.

ONE MINUTE TO MIDNIGHT...

I HEAR HAMMERHEAD'S MAN *SCRATCH* IS IN POLICE CUSTODY.

THAT'S A TOUGH BREAK.

I SYMPATHIZE.

TRULY, I DO.

BUT A DEAL'S A DEAL, AND MY BOY *PAINMAKER* IS READY TO FIGHT.

IF YOUR BOSS CAN'T PUT A MAN IN THE CAGE-- WELL, THEN--

WHO SAID I CAN'T PUT A MAN IN THE CAGE?

BEFORE I RAN MY OWN GANG I WAS A *MAGGIA ENFORCER.*

KNOW HOW I GOT TO THE *TOP?*

HEAD FIRST!

OH. MY. GOD.

GNGNGNH

ANY QUESTIONS?

TINK TINK

TINK

I HAVE A QUESTION.

WHAT MAKES *EITHER* OF YOU THINK YOU CAN USE *MY* TERRITORY AS A KILLING GROUND FOR *YOUR* PATHETIC TURF WARS?

WHOOM

I SEE WHAT YOU DID THERE.

CLAIMING THE THIRD PRECINCT AS *WRAITH*-PROTECTED TERRITORY.

NICE *PLOY*.

WHAT MAKES YOU THINK IT'S A PLOY?

WE DON'T *HAVE* TERRITORY.

WHAT MAKES YOU THINK THERE'S A "*WE*"?

BUT I THOUGHT--

I'VE BEEN *WAITING* FOR A CHANCE LIKE THIS.

ALWAYS WANTED TO GET YOU SOMEWHERE *NICE N' TIGHT* WHERE YOU COULDN'T JUMP AROUND.

JUST THE *TWO* OF US--

KRUNCH

UP CLOSE.

RGNGNH

PERSONAL!

KRUNCH

HNGNGR

PEOPLE LIKE YOU, PEOPLE LIKE *GOBLIN KING*, KNOW WHAT YOUR *PROBLEM* IS?

YOU SEE A GUY LIKE ME--I WEAR A SUIT, I CARRY A GUN, I RUN A CREW, I'VE GOT A PLATE IN MY HEAD.

YOU THINK YOU *KNOW* ME.

YOU DON'T KNOW ME!

YOU'RE RIGHT.

SOMETIMES I WONDER IF YOU CAN EVER REALLY KNOW *ANYONE.*

HEY--

WHAAAM

GOBLIN KING GOT AWAY.

AFTER THE WAY WE CLEANED UP HIS MEN, I DOUBT HE'LL BE BACK.

I THINK HE GOT THE *MESSAGE.*

YEAH?

WHAT MESSAGE IS THAT, YURI?

WE DON'T PROTECT "TURF"--WE PROTECT PEOPLE, WE CATCH BAD GUYS.

THERE HAS TO BE A *DIFFERENCE* BETWEEN WHAT WE DO AND WHAT *THEY* DO.

YOU WORRY ABOUT THE DIFFERENCE. I'LL WORRY ABOUT RESULTS.

I WORRY ABOUT YOU.

I LOOKED AT THOSE PHOTOS IN JUDGE HOWELL'S EVIDENCE FILE.

IT'S OBVIOUS THEY WERE TAKEN BY SOMEBODY INSIDE TOMBSTONE'S CREW.

SO?

SO THAT MEANS HOWELL AND TOMBSTONE WERE SET UP.

SOMEBODY USED HOWELL TO PUT TOMBSTONE IN JAIL.

SO?

I WAS WRONG.

I TOLD YURI I KNEW HOW SHE FELT.

I THOUGHT I UNDERSTOOD THE DARK PLACE THOSE FEELINGS CAN LEAD TO.

I'M STARTING TO THINK THAT I HAVE NO IDEA.

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN 18.1 VARIANT

BY GREG LAND & MORRY HOLLOWELL

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN 18.1

SPIRAL, PART THREE

Manhattan's Third Precinct.

AN UNDEVELOPED SECTION OF THE WEST SIDE'S HIGH LINE...

2:00 A.M.

GIVE YOU THIS, SPECS.

YOU SHOW SERIOUS WEIGHT, TURNING UP ON *HAMMERHEAD'S* STREETS--

--MAKING A GRAB FOR *OUR* TURF--

--WHILE YOUR BOSS WARMS A COT ON *RYKER'S*.

KANG

DOESN'T MATTER *WHERE* THE MAN TUCKS HIS HEAD.

TOMBSTONE SAYS TAKE YOUR TURF--

--WE TAKE YOUR TURF.

KRUNCH

BOYS, BOYS.

AS AMUSING AS IT MAY BE TO WATCH YOU BEAT EACH OTHER TO A PULP--

--LET ME OFFER AN *ALTERNATIVE* TO MUTUALLY ASSURED SELF-DESTRUCTION.

PUT YOUR TOYS AWAY--

--EASE BACK ON THE *TESTOSTERONE*--

CHAK

WHAK

--AND LET A *WOMAN* TAKE CHARGE.

AND BY "WOMAN," OBVIOUSLY I MEAN ME:

THE BLACK CAT.

SO?

THIS IS THE PART WHERE YOU FALL ALL OVER EACH OTHER TO ACCEPT THE INEVITABLE AND SWEAR UNDYING LOYALTY.

WHO WANTS TO GO *FIRST?*

NEVER GONNA HAPPEN

FORGET IT

NO WAY

BITE

EAT

TOMBSTONE

HAMMERHEAD

WE A CREW.

CREW WORKS FOR *ONE* MAN.

THAT'S WHY IT'S A *CREW.*

OWE HIM

OWE 'IM

HAMMERHEAD

TOMBSTONE

CALL IT *RESPECT.*

TILL HE SAYS OTHERWISE--

--WE WORK FOR *HIM.* NOBODY ELSE.

HUH.

THAT'S DISAPPOINTING.

YES. TOMBSTONE AND HAMMERHEAD INSPIRE FIERCE *LOYALTY.*

TOUGH TO COUNTER, BUT NOT IMPOSSIBLE.

CRIME MASTER?

I KNOW-- YOU THOUGHT I WAS DEAD.

THAT WAS MY *PREDECESSOR.*

SAME MASK, SAME NAME--NEW MODEL.

I BELIEVE YOU'VE MET A FEW OF MY COLLEAGUES--

THE OX AND *SNAKE MARSTON,* FORMERLY OF THE *THUNDERBOLTS--*

THINGS THERE DIDN'T WORK OUT.

CREATIVE DIFFERENCES.

HAMMER HARRISON, ONE OF THE FEW MEN TO LAND CONSECUTIVE HITS ON *SPIDER-MAN--*

PEOPLE SAY I'M GOOD WITH MY HANDS.

AND, OF COURSE, *FANCY DAN,* AN EARLY FOUNDER OF THIS TROOP KNOWN COLLECTIVELY AS--*THE ENFORCERS.*

MA'AM.

MAY I SAY, IT WAS A *PLEASURE* TO WATCH YOU WORK.

YOU ARE *POETRY IN MOTION.*

UH... THANKS?

YOU WONDER WHY WE'RE HERE.

NOT TO *COMPETE*, I ASSURE YOU.

TO *ASSIST*.

ASSIST *HOW?*

WITH KINGPIN OUT OF THE PICTURE, THE CRIMINAL ELEMENT OF THIS CITY DEMANDS NEW LEADERSHIP.

I'VE WATCHED YOU *RISE*, CAT.

YOU CAN PROVIDE THAT LEADERSHIP.

YOU HAVE THE *SKILLS* AND THE *CHARISMA*.

ALL YOU NEED IS A *PLAN*.

COLOR ME INTRIGUED.

HAMMERHEAD AND TOMBSTONE COMMAND THE UNBREAKABLE LOYALTY OF THEIR MEN.

DON'T TRY TO *BREAK* THAT LOYALTY.

CO-OPT IT.

MAKE TOMBSTONE AND HAMMERHEAD LOYAL TO *YOU*.

HOW DO I DO THAT?

WITH OUR HELP--

I SUGGEST AN OLD-SCHOOL *JAILBREAK*.

11:00 A.M.

Parker Industries.

...AND THAT'S WHY I RECOMMEND WE INFLATE THE FRAMISTAN WITH THE BLAG-BARTER BEFORE THE WHIZ-KICKER FRETS THE ODOMETER.

HM?

RIGHT.

SOUNDS GOOD.

SO YOU'RE NOT WORRIED WE'LL PUT TOO MUCH FLANG IN THE SPANG?

NOPE.

WHATEVER YOU DECIDE IS FINE BY ME.

PETER!

I'M BABBLING NONSENSE!

WHAT?

I'VE BEEN TRYING TO HAVE A CONVERSATION WITH YOU BUT YOU'RE LOST IN YOUR OWN HEAD.

TALK TO ME.

SORRY.

I'M WORRIED ABOUT A *FRIEND.*

SHE'S MADE SOME... REALLY POOR *DECISIONS* LATELY.

ANNA MARIA...DO YOU THINK *GOOD* PEOPLE CAN GO *BAD?*

YOU'RE TALKING TO A WOMAN WHO FELL IN LOVE WITH A GUY WHO HIJACKED ANOTHER GUY'S BODY.

OTTO MADE A LOT OF POOR DECISIONS.

IN THE END HE MADE SOME GOOD ONES, TOO.

WAS HE A *GOOD* MAN WHO DID *BAD* THINGS, A *BAD* MAN WHO DID *GOOD* THINGS, OR A BIT OF *BOTH?*

I WISH I KNEW.

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN OTTO AND YOUR FRIEND IS...

...*HE* CAN'T SETTLE THE ISSUE.

SHE CAN.

5:25 P.M.

HUDSON STREET, HOME OF MANHATTAN'S THIRD PRECINCT.

THIS WON'T BE FUN.

YURI WATANABE DIDN'T FIGHT HER WAY UP THE RANKS TO *POLICE CAPTAIN* BY SECOND-GUESSING HER OWN DECISIONS.

SHE WON'T WANT TO HEAR WHAT I HAVE TO SAY.

NOT JUST BECAUSE SHE'S TOUGH AND AMBITIOUS.

FOR ANY COP, *DOUBT* CAN BE DEADLY.

A SECOND'S *HESITATION* CAN COST YOU YOUR LIFE-- OR THE *LIFE* OF YOUR PARTNER.

TROUBLE IS, A COP'S NEED FOR SELF-CONFIDENCE CAN BECOME *CORRUPTED*.

CORRUPTED SELF-CONFIDENCE CURDLES INTO SELF-JUSTIFICATION.

THAT'S WHAT BROKE OTTO OCTAVIUS.

YURI, PLEASE DON'T LET--

SPIDER-SENSE!

MISTER NEGATIVE!

I OFTEN WONDER WHY YOU AND YOUR COLORFUL ALLIES POSSESS SUCH AN IRRESISTIBLE URGE TO ANNOUNCE THE *OBVIOUS*.

A QUESTION WE'LL EXPLORE ANOTHER TIME.

CAPTAIN, SINCE OUR BUSINESS HERE IS COMPLETE--

--I'LL SAY GOOD NIGHT.

OHNOYOUDON--

--NNNNTT≠÷

CHUNK

I HATE HOW HE DOES THAT.

HOW DOES HE DO THAT?

AND WHAT DID HE MEAN, "OUR BUSINESS IS COMPLETE"?

WHAT "BUSINESS"?

I'LL TELL YOU ON THE WAY.

THE WAY *WHERE?*

WHERE ARE WE GOING?

RYKER'S ISLAND.

YOU AND *THE WRAITH* ARE ABOUT TO STOP A *BREAK-OUT.*

6:19 P.M.

THE PERIMETER GUARDS ARE ALL *UNCONSCIOUS.*

NEGATIVE TOLD YOU THE TRUTH. IT'S A JAILBREAK.

YOU DO REALIZE THIS IS *NUTS,* RIGHT?

HE'S AN INFORMANT.

HE'S *PLAYING* YOU.

WE'VE BEEN OVER THIS.

HE SET UP *JUDGE HOWELL* TO NAIL *TOMBSTONE,* HE HANDED YOU *HAMMERHEAD--*

HOWELL BROKE THE LAW. TOMBSTONE AND HAMMERHEAD ARE CRIMINALS.

I DON'T SEE HOW THE REST IS *RELEVANT.*

YOU DON'T-- ARE YOU *KIDDING* ME?

YOU'RE THE FUNNY ONE, NOT ME.

WE HAVE WORK TO DO.

SPIDER-MAN-- AND SOME *WOMAN?*

WHAT ARE *THEY* DOING HERE?

SOMEBODY SET US UP?
WHY?
WILD GUESS?
THEY WERE TIPPED OFF.
DOESN'T MATTER.
TOMBSTONE IS IN SECURE QUARTERS AT THE INFIRMARY--
HAMMERHEAD IS ON THE JAIL BARGE.
LET'S GO GET THEM AND *FINISH* THIS.
I'M TRYING TO LOOK AT ALL THIS AS A *GLASS-HALF-FULL* RATHER THAN A *GLASS-HALF-EMPTY* SITUATION.
HEY THERE, SPIDER.
WHO'S YOUR GIRLFRIEND?
FROM THE GLASS-HALF-FULL PERSPECTIVE--
POINT ONE:
SHE'S NOT MY GIRLFRIEND.
--WHATEVER HER CURRENT THINKING--
SHE'S AN ALLY.
--YURI WATANABE IS *STILL* ONE OF THE GOOD GUYS.
POINT TWO:
AS LONG AS YOU KEEP TRYING TO *KILL* ME--

--MY LOVE LIFE ISN'T OPEN TO DISCUSSIONNNNHH

KRATTICH

DAMN IT, FELICIA.

YOU ALWAYS DID KNOW HOW TO GET UNDER MY SKIN.

NOW WHAT?

FELICIA AND HER PALS ARE SPLITTING UP.

MEANING IT'S CRUNCH TIME.

IF MY METAPHORICAL GLASS IS *REALLY* HALF-FULL, *THE WRAITH* CAN HANDLE CRIME MASTER AND THE ENFORCERS WITHOUT GOING *ROGUE*.

BUT WHAT IF THE GLASS IS *HALF-EMPTY?*

CAN I TRUST *HER?*

LIKE I HAVE A CHOICE.

7:01 P.M.

7:04 P.M.

SPIDER-MAN DOESN'T UNDERSTAND.

HE THINKS THERE ARE STILL *RULES* TO BE FOLLOWED.

WASN'T SUPPOSED TO BE LIKE THIS.

JUST A PRISON BREAK, A SIMPLE IN-AND-OUT--

--IN-AND-OUT--

OHHHGAGGAAAA

WHATSHAPPENING WHATSHAPPENING WHATSHAPPENING

FEAR GAS.

KRAK THAK

HE THINKS THE WAY I USED TO THINK.

I KNOW YOU'RE THERE.

THE PROBLEM WITH FEAR GAS--

I CAN HEAR YOU.

--IT'S ALMOST *USELESS* IN THE OPEN AIR.

I JUST CAN'T SEE--

BUT TAKE IT INDOORS--

--SAY, INTO A CELL BLOCK *CORRIDOR*--

GNGNGHG

WHACK

GET AWAY GET AWAY GET AWAY

--IT'S JUST *WONDERFUL.*

SPIDER-MAN THINKS RULES STILL MEAN MORE THAN *JUSTICE.*

I'VE LEARNED *BETTER.*

THOOOM!

WAIT.

IS THAT--?

FIRE

JUDGE HOWELL?

WHY IS HE ON A RESPIRATOR?

WHAT *HAPPENED* TO HIM?

H-HE WAS *KNIFED* BY AN INMATE.

THE G-GUARDS THINK IT WAS AN ATTEMPTED *CONTRACT* KILLING.

PLEASE DON'T HURT ME.

7:26 P.M.

I CAN HEAR CARS AND TRUCKS SCREECHING ONTO THE ISLAND OUTSIDE.

SWAT TEAMS FROM THE CITY.

FIVE MORE MINUTES AND *BULLETS* WILL START FLYING EVERYWHERE.

PEOPLE WILL *DIE*.

WE HAVE TO--

STOP!

JUST *STOP*, OKAY?

THERE'S AN ARMY OF COPS ON THE WAY.

IF WE KEEP THIS UP, SOMEBODY WILL GET KILLED.

I DON'T WANT IT TO BE YOU.

YOU'RE SERIOUS.

YOU EXPECT ME TO JUST... STOP AND WALK AWAY?

I KNOW YOU HATE ME NOW. YOU HAVE GOOD REASON. BUT THAT DOESN'T MATTER.

WHATEVER YOU THINK OF ME, I STILL CARE ABOUT YOU.

I BELIEVE YOU'RE A GOOD PERSON MAKING BAD CHOICES.

THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO MAKE A GOOD ONE.

PLEASE.

THIS DOESN'T CHANGE THINGS BETWEEN US.

I NEVER THOUGHT IT WOULD.

AWW, SWEET.

YOU TWO MAKE A CUTE COUPLE.

GOT ANY GUM?

EVER SINCE I GAVE UP CIGARS I CAN'T GET ENOUGH OF THE STUFF.

DON'T MAKE ME HIT YOU.

BANG

7:29 P.M.

OH NO, OH NO.

MAXIMUM SECURITY AREA. PROTECTIVE CUSTODY CELL BLOCK

I TRUSTED YOU, YURI.

I TRUSTED YOU!

I HEARD A GUNSHOT--

WRAITH!

WHAT DID YOU DO?

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN 19.1 VARIANT

BY JUSTIN PONSOR

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN 19.1

SPIRAL, PART FOUR

SOME MOMENTS IN LIFE ARE A *FULCRUM.*

SOMETHING *HAPPENS.*

--FOR AN ACT OF EXTRAORDINARY BRAVERY, PERFORMED IN THE LINE OF DUTY, WITH KNOWLEDGE OF THE RISK INVOLVED, AND AT IMMINENT AND PERSONAL DANGER TO HIS OWN LIFE--

--I AM PROUD TO AWARD THE *NYPD MEDAL OF HONOR* TO *SERGEANT KENNETH WATANABE.*

GRANDPA! I'M SO PROUD OF YOU!

AH, YURIKO--

THE HONOR IS FOR THE FAMILY, NOT FOR ME.

SOMEDAY *YOU* WILL STAND HERE, AND *I'LL* BE PROUD OF YOU.

SWIK!

THE WORLD *TILTS.*

SNAP!

WHO WE ARE *BEFORE* THAT MOMENT--

JOHN WATANABE, YOU HAVE BEEN CONVICTED OF BRIBERY IN THE FIRST DEGREE UNDER ARTICLE 200 OF THE NEW YORK PENAL LAW, A CLASS B FELONY.

FOR ANY PUBLIC SERVANT TO ACCEPT A BRIBE IS AN ***AFFRONT*** TO CIVIC ORDER.

WHEN THAT PUBLIC SERVANT IS A POLICE OFFICER--

--THE SON OF A DECEASED, DECORATED OFFICER AND THE FATHER OF A SERVING MEMBER OF OUR ARMED FORCES--

--THE AFFRONT IS ***UNFORGIVABLE***.

WATANABI

--AND WHO WE BECOME ***AFTER***--

MY ANNA MARIA.

YOU... YOU REALLY LOVE HER.

YES.

AND TO SAVE HER...I MUST GIVE UP EVERY PART OF THAT LOVE.

FOR I KNOW...ONLY ***YOU*** CAN SAVE HER.

BECAUSE YOU ***ARE*** THE SUPERIOR SPIDER-MAN.

--ARE ***TWO*** DIFFERENT PEOPLE.

TTKK

TTKKK

TTKKKK

NGH!

TEDDY!

Ryker's Island. NOW.

I HEARD A GUNSHOT--

WRAITH!

WHAT DID YOU DO?!

I KNOW HOW THIS LOOKS.

IT LOOKS LIKE YOU JUST SHOT TOMBSTONE!

NOT ME.

ONE OF MR. NEGATIVE'S INNER DEMONS.

MASQUERADING AS THE CRIME MASTER.

DROP THE GUN!

UH, GUYS...

WE KNOW HOW THIS LOOKS.

HANDS UP, BOTH OF YOU!

DON'T.

WHY DOES NOBODY EVER LISTEN TO ME?

PHTUTT

PHTOK

PHTOOM

I BELIEVE YURI.

OF COURSE I DO.

THE WRAITH DIDN'T TRY TO KILL TOMBSTONE; SHE WAS FRAMED BY MARTIN LI.

TROUBLE IS--

--EVEN IF I DO BELIEVE HER--

--I'M NOT SURE IT MATTERS ANYMORE.

Chinatown.

黑白

I KNOW WHO YOU ARE, LI.

DO YOU KNOW WHO I AM?

I WOULDN'T HAVE INVITED YOU FOR THIS CHAT IF I DIDN'T.

YOU WERE BORN *MAYNARD TIBOLDT*, AS I WAS BORN *MARTIN LI*.

LIKE ME, YOU CAST ASIDE THE NAME OF YOUR BIRTH AS A SNAKE SHEDS ITS SKIN.

WE ALL *CHOOSE* WHO WE ARE.

SO DO ME THIS COURTESY, MAYNARD:

CALL ME *MR. NEGATIVE*--

--AND I'LL CALL YOU *RINGMASTER*.

HMPH.

WHAT DO YOU WANT?

TO PROPOSE AN ALLIANCE.

WITH TOMBSTONE AND HAMMERHEAD OUT OF THE PICTURE, BLACK CAT AND THE GOBLIN KING TEMPORARILY SIDELINED...

...YOU AND I ARE THE *LAST MEN STANDING*.

UH-UH.

BACK OFF.

I KNOW ALL ABOUT YOUR CORRUPTING TOUCH.

I HAVE MY OWN METHODS OF EXERTING INFLUENCE.

YES. I'D HEARD YOU'D BEEN BLINDED.

SO PLEASED RUMORS ABOUT YOUR "RECOVERY" APPEAR JUSTIFIED.

BLACK MARKET TECH.

MY FRIENDS AND I DON'T MAKE ALLIANCES, LI.

THE *CIRCUS OF CRIME* HAS ROOM FOR ONLY ONE RINGMASTER.

HIS NAME IS *MAYNARD TIBOLDT.*

PITY A MAN WITH SUCH EXTRAORDINARY VISION CAN BE SO SHORT-SIGHTED.

LOOKS LIKE YOUR PLAN TO WIN THE CITY'S GANG WAR JUST FELL APART.

YOU THINK SO, CAPTAIN WATANABE?

WHAT DID YOU SAY--?

DON'T TREAT ME LIKE AN IDIOT, CAPTAIN.

I'VE KNOWN FOR WEEKS *THE WRAITH* IS YURI WATANABE.

TAKE OFF THAT USELESS MASK.

I TELL YURI WATANABE THAT THE JUDGE WHO RELEASED TOMBSTONE FROM CUSTODY BOUGHT DRUGS FROM TOMBSTONE'S SECOND-IN-COMMAND.

WHO SHOWS UP TO *EXPOSE* THE CONSPIRACY?

SPIDER-MAN AND THE WRAITH.

I TELL YURI WATANABE HAMMERHEAD AND THE GOBLIN KING HAVE ARRANGED A CAGE MATCH TO SETTLE A TURF DISPUTE.

WHO SHOWS UP TO *DISRUPT* THE MATCH?

SPIDER-MAN AND THE WRAITH.

I TELL YURI WATANABE THE BLACK CAT PLANS A PRISON BREAK AT RYKER'S.

WHO SHOWS UP TO *STOP* HER?

YOU SET ME UP.

YOU SET *YOURSELF* UP, YURI.

I DIDN'T NEED TO *CORRUPT* YOU.

CORRUPTION, IT APPEARS, RUNS IN THE WATANABE FAMILY.

BASTARD!

WHAT DO YOU WANT?

NOTHING SO TERRIBLE, REALLY.

MY INNER DEMON DONALD HERE WILL KEEP AN EYE ON YOU.

THAT ALL?

JUST DO WHAT YOU'VE ALWAYS DONE, CAPTAIN.

FIGHT CRIME.

NEW YORK TECH[illegible]IR

EMPIRE STATE VENTION CENTER

I'M EXHAUSTED.

SPENT HALF THE NIGHT LOOKING FOR YURI.

CHECKED HER APARTMENT THREE TIMES BEFORE I FINALLY HAD TO GET SOME SLEEP.

IF SHE ISN'T AT HER PRECINCT THIS MORNING--

YOU'RE *DONE*, CAPTAIN.

OH, THAT DOESN'T SOUND GOOD.

WORD CAME FROM RYKER'S ISLAND THIS MORNING.

JUDGE HOWELL *DIED* AN HOUR AGO.

I KNEW HE'D BEEN STABBED--

THIS IS ON *YOU*.

I ORDERED YOU TO TAKE IT SLOW WITH HOWELL. TO BE SURE. GO BY THE BOOK.

YOU DIDN'T LISTEN.

NOW A JUDGE...NOT A COP, BUT PART OF THE FAMILY...

...IS *DEAD* BECAUSE YOU MADE IT *PERSONAL*.

YOU'RE FINISHED IN THIS DEPARTMENT, WATANABE.

YOU'LL KEEP YOUR JOB, BUT YOUR CAREER IS OVER.

BAD TIME TO TALK?

ALL I EVER TRIED TO DO WAS PROTECT MY PRECINCT AND TAKE DOWN THE BAD GUYS.

THAT'S WHAT YOU TELL YOURSELF.

IT'S TRUE.

IS IT?

YOU MADE A MISTAKE, YURI.

DON'T MAKE THINGS WORSE BY DENYING IT.

I KNOW WHAT I DID, SPIDER-MAN.

WHATEVER COMES NEXT...

...I CAN LIVE WITH IT.

NOT THE REPLY I WANTED TO HEAR.

THE YURI WATANABE I KNEW WAS A PASSIONATE COP AND A RELUCTANT VIGILANTE.

THIS WOMAN--

I'M NOT SURE *WHO* SHE IS.

ABOUT TIME YOU DECIDED TO SHOW YOURSELF.

YOU KNOW I'M KEEPING AN EYE ON YOU, RIGHT?

REALLY? I HADN'T NOTICED.

SO, WHY ARE WE AT THE *CONVENTION CENTER?*

ANOTHER HOT TIP FROM YOUR PAL *MR. NEGATIVE?*

YOU WANT TO PICK A FIGHT OR TAKE DOWN SOME BAD GUYS?

WHAT, WE CAN'T DO BOTH?

+SIGH+

OKAY, I'LL BITE.

WHICH BAD GUYS ARE WE TAKING DOWN TONIGHT?

KRAK

KRAK

K-KRAK

THE CIRCUS OF CRIME!

EMPIRE STATE CENTER

1C

3B - 3E
Crystal Palace, Galleria
1D, 1E, 2D
Food Court

NEW YORK TECH FAIR

THESE GUYS?

I HATE THESE GUYS.

KRAK K-KRAK

THWIP

HUH?

UH-OH--

I THINK THE CIRCUS EXPRESSION YOU'RE GROPING FOR WHEN SEEKING AID FROM FELLOW CARNIES IS, "HEY, RUBE!"

WHUNK

WHOOPS, TOO LATE.

AND YOU.

HASN'T ANYONE EVER TOLD YOU THERE'S A SIMPLE TREATMENT FOR *ACID REFLUX?*

ASK YOUR DOCTOR WHEN YOU SEE HIM.

FWOOSH

KRASH

I'M GUESSING THAT WILL BE REAL SOON.

GONNA *CATCH* YOU.

GONNA *SQUISH* YOU.

GONNA--

--WOOO-WOOO-WOOO--

ONE BLAST FROM MY *SONIC AIR HORN* AND THE LAUGH'S ON YOU, SPIDER-MAN!

WOOO-WOOO--

ULP.

--WUFF!

LIKE NOBODY SAW THAT COMING.

SPEAKING OF SURPRISES THAT AREN'T SURPRISES--

KUMP

--SERIOUSLY, WHEN HAS "SNEAKING UP ON THE SPIDER-GUY" EVER ACTUALLY WORKED FOR ANYONE?

SPIDER-MAN IS ENJOYING THIS.

HE THINKS THIS FIGHT--THIS *WAR*--IS SOME KIND OF GAME.

AISLE 140

WELL, MAYBE IT IS.

BUT IF THIS *IS* A GAME--

--I'M DONE PLAYING BY EVERYONE ELSE'S RULES.

CLAP

CLAP

CLAP

BRAVO, WEB-SLINGER.

A MOST *IMPRESSIVE* DISPLAY OF ATHLETIC SKILL AND DERRING-DO.

YET, LIKE THE GORMLESS IDIOTS WHO WANDER THESE HALLS MERELY TO MARVEL AT THE SPECTACULAR DISPLAYS OF OVERSIZED GADGETS AND GIZMOS--

--YOU MISTAKE THE *SIDESHOW* FOR THE *MAIN ACT*.

NOT FOLLOWING THE METAPHOR HERE.

ALL THESE ENORMOUS PROPS ARE A *DISTRACTION*.

FROM WHAT?

"THE ONE ITEM OF *MONETARY* VALUE AT THIS SHOW HONORING THE EXCESSES OF OUR TECHNOPHILIC SOCIETY.

"A *WATCH*."

DID YOU SAY A WATCH?

THE MOST *VALUABLE* WATCH IN HISTORY.

A HIGH-TECH PROTOTYPE, PURE *GOLD* WITH A *DIAMOND* FACE.

INSURED FOR *TEN MILLION DOLLARS.*

HUH.

I SEE WHAT YOU MEAN BY THE "*EXCESS*" REMARK.

STILL DON'T ENTIRELY GET THE *SIDESHOW* METAPHOR.

THEN LET ME CLARIFY.

MY CIRCUS ALLIES WERE THE SIDESHOW...

...*I'M* THE *RINGMASTER!*

LESSON LEARNED:

TOP HAT, TAILS, AND JODHPURS MAKE YOU LOOK LIKE A JOKE.

PEOPLE THINK YOU'RE A JOKE, THEY DROP THEIR GUARD.

AND JUST LIKE THAT...

...NOBODY'S *LAUGHING* ANYMORE.

I CAN'T FIGHT THESE GUARDS.

THEY'RE NOT *RESPONSIBLE* FOR WHAT THEY'RE DOING.

THEY DON'T HAVE A *CHOICE.*

SPTAK

SPTOOF

SPAFF

I DO.

I CAN PICK MY ENEMIES.

I CAN MAKE THE *RIGHT* MOVE.

I CAN DO THE *RIGHT* THING.

THWIPP

BECAUSE, WITH GREAT POWER...

AH, HECK.

SPLORTCH

WHO AM I KIDDING?

GLMPHHFF

SOMETIMES IT JUST FEELS GOOD TO *PUNCH* SOMEBODY.

PUNK

AGRRGHH

I HAVE NO CHOICE.

MR. NEGATIVE PLAYED ME, JUST AS SPIDER-MAN *WARNED* ME HE WOULD.

THANKS TO HIM, I CAN'T BE A COP ANYMORE.

THANKS TO HIM, YURI WATANABE'S LIFE IS OVER.

BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN HE OWNS ME.

THAT DOESN'T MEAN I CAN'T *DESTROY* HIM.

YURI WATANABE IS DEAD.

THE WRAITH LIVES...

NEW YORK TECH FAIR

...AND SHE WANTS *JUSTICE.*

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN 20.1 VARIANT

BY NICK BRADSHAW & JIM CAMPBELL

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN 20.1

SPIRAL, PART FIVE

The Third Precinct.
9:33 A.M.

EVERYBODY BACK!
THIS IS OUR SCORE!
BBBRRRRT BRRRT
YOU'RE ON HAMMERHEAD'S TURF, FREAK.
HIS TURF, OUR MONEY!
POLICE! ALL OF YOU, GUNS DOWN AND HANDS UP--
THIS IS BAD.
BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA

The Third Precinct.
10:42 A.M.

TOLD YOU TAKING DOWN THIS ARMORED CAR WOULD BE A CINCH.
DIDN'T MENTION THERE'D BE COPS.
THAT A PROBLEM?
WITH KINGPIN OUT OF THE PICTURE, THERE ARE NO PROBLEMS, MATE--
--ONLY POSSIBILITIES.
POLICE! BOTH OF YOU, HANDS UP--
REALLY BAD.

The Third Precinct.

12:18 P.M.

GRAB EVERY BOX!

THESE DRUGS ARE WORTH A *FORTUNE* ON THE BLACK MARKET!

POLICE! ALL OF YOU--

REALLY--

REALLY BAD!

COPS COMING! WHAT DO WE *DO?*

IS THAT A *SERIOUS* QUESTION?

ANYBODY GETS IN YOUR WAY--*KILL THEM!*

1:07 P.M.

EVER SINCE DOC OCK USED HIS "SUPERIOR" SKILLS TO LOCK DOWN CRIME A FEW MONTHS BACK--

--PARTS OF THIS CITY HAVE BEEN A PROVERBIAL *POWDER KEG*--

--JUST BEGGING FOR AN ARSONIST TO LIGHT THINGS UP.

1:29 P.M.

RIVAL GANGS, LONE WOLVES, COSTUMED CRAZIES--

MAYBE IT'S A MIRACLE THE WHOLE MESS DIDN'T EXPLODE *SOONER*.

1:58 P.M.

BUT WHY *NOW?*

WHY *ALL AT ONCE?*

WHY *TODAY?*

2:02 P.M.

OH, DON'T BE *NAIVE.*

THIS WHOLE GANG WAR IS YOUR FAULT.

MY FAULT?

WOOF!

YOU CAN'T PUT THIS ON ME, FELICIA-- I'M TRYING TO *STOP* THE CRAZY!

ONLY MY FRIENDS GET TO CALL ME *FELICIA.*

FINE.

YOU'RE *THE BLACK CAT,* I'M YOUR FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD *SPIDER-MAN.*

STILL DON'T SEE HOW THIS IS MY FAU-- *OWWW!*

I'LL MAKE IT *SIMPLE* FOR YOU.

SWISSKKK

THE THIRD PRECINCT'S GANG STRUCTURE WAS THE CRIMINAL EQUIVALENT OF A *JENGA PUZZLE.*

WHEN YOU AND YOUR NEW GIRLFRIEND BUSTED *TOMBSTONE--*

--AND FOLLOWED UP BY BRINGING DOWN HIS RIVAL *HAMMERHEAD--*

--YOU PULLED ONE TOO MANY *PIECES* OUT OF THE STACK.

THANK YOU.

FIRST OF ALL, THAT'S ACTUALLY A PRETTY GOOD METAPHOR.

SECOND OF ALL, *THE WRAITH* IS *NOT* MY "GIRLFRIEND."

WHATEVER.

POINT IS, YOU AND YOUR LITTLE PAL HAVE DONE ME A FAVOR.

CHAOS IS THE *MOTHER* OF OPPORTUNITY.

ONCE THE DUST SETTLES I'LL PICK THROUGH THE RUBBLE FOR THE SHINY BITS.

UNLESS HE AND HIS *INNER DEMONS* GET THERE FIRST.

FELICIA, *PLEASE*, DON'T MAKE ME HUR--

RKKK

I SAID--

YOU.

DON'T.

CALL.

ME.

FELICIA!

WHAM

HARD TO BELIEVE WE USED TO BE MORE THAN FRIENDS.

SOME PEOPLE, WHEN THEY DECIDE YOU BETRAYED THEM, EVEN IF IT WASN'T YOU BUT SOME MAD DOCTOR WHO HIJACKED YOUR HEAD--

THEY NEVER FORGET. NEVER FORGIVE.

ONE OF THESE DAYS I'LL HAVE TO FIGHT BACK.

BUT NOT TODAY.

TODAY I'VE GOT BUSINESS WITH THE "*HE*" FELICIA MENTIONED...

...MARTIN LI, OR, TO GIVE HIM THE NAME HE PREFERS TO GO BY--

MISTER NEGATIVE!

黑白

4:18 P.M.

AH, CAPTAIN WATANABE--

I WAS WONDERING WHEN YOU'D JOIN US.

I'D HAVE SENT ONE OF MY *INNER DEMONS* TO INVITE YOU TO THE PARTY--

--BUT AS YOU CAN SEE, THEY'VE BEEN *BUSY.*

EVERYTHING HAPPENING IN THE THIRD PRECINCT--

THAT'S *YOUR* DOING?

NOT *ENTIRELY.*

MY INNER DEMONS STRUCK THE SPARK, BUT *YOU* PILED THE TINDER.

SPEAKING OF MY DEMONS-- WHERE'S *DONALD?* HE FAILED TO REPORT ON YOUR ADVENTURE LAST NIGHT.

I HOPE NOTHING HAPPENED TO HIM.

SOMETHING DID.

I KILLED HIM.

WHAT DID YOU SAY?

I. KILLED. HIM.

MORE TO THE POINT--

I'M GOING TO KILL YOU.

STOP HER!

"STOP" ME?

PTOOF

FTOOM

PTOOM

FTOOFF

THUNK

YOU'RE "MISTER NEGATIVE"-- YOU CORRUPT PEOPLE.

YOU THINK CORRUPTION IS CONTROL.

IT ISN'T.

AND YOU CAN'T STOP WHAT YOU CAN'T CONTROL.

KRUNCH

CHUMP

THWAP

WHO ARE YOU TRYING TO CONVINCE?

THE GUY WHO'S ALREADY LEFT THE BUILDING--

--OR YOURSELF?

SPIDER-MAN. WHY ARE YOU HERE? WHY WON'T YOU LEAVE ME ALONE?

BECAUSE I HAVEN'T GIVEN UP ON YOU.

I STILL THINK YOU CAN CHANGE THE PATH YOU'VE BEEN FOLLOWING.

WHAT IF I DON'T *WANT* TO CHANGE?

I DON'T BELIEVE THAT.

I *CAN'T* BELIEVE THAT.

THE YURI WATANABE I KNOW--

THE YURI WATANABE *YOU* KNOW?

SHE WASN'T REAL.

THAT YURI WAS A STORY I MADE UP, A LIE I TOLD MYSELF--THE GOOD GRANDDAUGHTER I THOUGHT I WANTED TO BE.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT A *WRAITH* IS, SPIDER-MAN?

IT'S A WISP, A TRACE, A *GHOST*--

--THE FADING MEMORY OF SOMEONE WHO'S *GONE*.

THERE'S A REASON I TOOK THE MASK BACK SO EASILY AFTER GIVING IT UP.

I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND THAT FULLY UNTIL I KILLED A MAN LAST NIGHT.

YURI WATANABE WOULD HAVE BEEN *HORRIFIED* BY WHAT I DID.

YURI, PLEASE--

BUT YOU KNOW HOW *I* FELT?

PTOOM

PTOOM

I FELT FREE!

KRAKK

PTOOM

=NGNGH=

PTOOM

I SAW THAT COMING.

I SAW IT COMING BUT I COULDN'T, *WOULDN'T* BELIEVE IT.

SO I GUESS YURI WATANABE ISN'T THE *ONLY* ONE WHO HAS TO FACE AN UNPLEASANT FACT ABOUT THEMSELVES.

FELICIA, YURI...

SOMETIMES WHAT I *WANT* TO BELIEVE BLINDS ME TO THE TRUTH ABOUT PEOPLE.

SOMETIMES I CAN'T SEE THE *MIRROR* THROUGH THE *SMOKE*.

WAIT. PLEASE. GIVE ME A CHANCE...

TO DO WHAT?

THIS!

I USED TO WONDER HOW MARTIN LI'S *CORRUPTING TOUCH* MANAGED TO AFFECT *EVERYONE* HE USED IT ON.

WOULDN'T THERE HAVE TO BE SOMEBODY, SOMEWHERE, HE *COULDN'T* CORRUPT?

I DON'T THINK I REALIZED, TILL JUST NOW--

DARKNESS WAITS IN *ALL* OF US.

GETTING YOU OUT OF HERE.

DON'T NEED YOUR *HELP--*

NOT *ABOUT* YOU.

YOU'RE BEYOND SAVING.

THEY'RE NOT!

WHAT YOU'VE DONE IS *YOUR* FAULT--

--BUT I PLAYED A PART IN THIS TOO.

I CHOSE NOT TO SEE WHAT YOU WERE BECOMING.

IF I'D FACED THE TRUTH--

--MAYBE I COULD'VE *HELPED* YOU.

SO THAT'S ON ME.

THE REST OF IT, THOUGH--

--LIKE YOUR *CHIEF* SAID, YURI--

THAT'S ON YOU!

WHAMM

WOW.

GUESS I WAS HOLDING BACK MORE ANGER THAN I THOUGHT.

I SHOULDN'T FEEL AS GOOD ABOUT THIS AS I DO.

BUT I DO FEEL PRETTY GOOD.

DARKNESS REALLY DOES WAIT INSIDE US ALL.

5:19 P.M.

INNER DEMONS... GONE...

...JUST NEED TO... REGROUP...

...SIMPLE... SETBACK...

YOU AND I MUST HAVE DIFFERENT DEFINITIONS OF THE WORD "SETBACK," MARTY.

NOOOO...

:SIGH:

SOME GUYS NEVER *GET* THE MEMO.

SOME GUYS DON'T *READ* THE MEMO.

TELL ME, MARTY...

...WHICH GUY ARE YOU?

5:26 P.M.

THE ONLY GOOD THING ABOUT MISTER NEGATIVE'S CORRUPTING TOUCH IS THAT IT'S TEMPORARY.

5:36 P.M.

ONCE THE FIRES SET BY HIS INNER DEMONS BURN OUT, THE THIRD PRECINCT WILL RETURN TO NORMAL...

5:49 P.M.

...OR AS "NORMAL" AS THINGS EVER GET IN THIS CITY.

NOT A VERY HIGH BAR TO MEET, I ADMIT.

5:58 P.M.

MAYBE THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS "*NORMAL*."

THE WORLD KEEPS CHANGING.

NOTHING STAYS THE SAME.

THE WORLD TURNS, PEOPLE TURN, EVERYTHING TURNS.

AND IT NEVER STOPS.

WHAT CAN YOU SAY?

IT'S THE CIRCLE OF LIFE.

BUT IT ISN'T A CIRCLE. NOT REALLY.

IT'S A *SPIRAL*.

THE THING ABOUT SPIRALS?

SOME GO UP.

SOME GO DOWN.

AND SOME JUST GO 'ROUND AND 'ROUND.

The End

"Fans looking for something a little more classic and with less grit should definitely take a look at this super-hero comic that's unashamed for being exciting, fun and still Spider-Man." — HyperGeeky.com

SPIDEY TAKES ON THE GANGS OF NEW YORK!

New York City's underworld has been in a state of flux since the Kingpin got taken out. Now, a vicious gang war is heating up, and Spider-Man is determined to stop it. But he's not the only one. Police Captain Yuri Watanabe is trying to curtail the madness — both in her day job, and as the vigilante the Wraith! But do Spidey and Wraith play by the same rules? The two uneasy allies try to keep the gang war from spiraling out of control — but when Hammerhead enters the picture, all bets are off. Soon, Spider-Man finds himself caught between Wraith and a cabal of deadly super criminals! Can Spidey put out the fire, or will the underworld burn? New York City's crime landscape will never be the same!

Collecting *Amazing Spider-Man (2014) #16.1-20.1,* written by Gerry Conway and illustrated by Carlo Barberi.

T+

MARVEL

ZONE